

(d) what minimum wages has been fixed for them and how it is being enforced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) No such survey has been conducted. However, according to 1991 Census there are 3,242,069 agricultural workers in Gujarat.

(c) The Government has enacted the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976, the Inter-State Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1979 for the welfare of workers including agricultural workers. The Government has also launched the Krishi Shramik Samajik Suraksha Yojana 2001, a Social Security Scheme for agricultural workers to provide Life-cum-accident insurance, money-back, pension and superannuation benefits. Other schemes for the rural workers including agricultural workers like Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarajgar Yojana (SGSY), Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY), Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) etc. are also in operation for their welfare.

(d) As per information available, the wages of the agricultural workers in Gujarat is Rs. 75.80 per day. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, enforcement is through the enforcement machinery both at the Central and State level.

Minimum Social Protection

1313. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government for providing minimum social protection;

(b) whether Government are serious about the Second Labour Commission Report; and

(c) whether any steps have been contemplated to arrest the tendency of dwindling labour content in the manufacturing industry in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Social protection is provided through various social security measures. In the organised sector, social security is provided to a large number of workforce in the country under the Employees Provident Fund Scheme and Employees State Insurance Scheme. The EPF Scheme, in addition to the

provident Fund, also provides for a Pension Scheme and an Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance Scheme.

Besides, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 and Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 also are applicable to the workers in the organised as well as unorganised sector as per the terms and conditions specified in these Acts.

(b) and (c) Review/updating of labour laws is an ongoing process in order to bring them in tune with the prevailing situation and emerging needs of the economy, taking into consideration the requirement of productivity, competitiveness, employment generation and economic reforms, a need has been felt to make amendments in certain labour laws. The second National Commission on Labour set up to suggest rationalization of existing laws relating to labour in the organised sector and an umbrella legislation for ensuring a minimum level of protection to the workers in the unorganised sector is expected to submit its report by 15.02.2002.

Flouting of Labour Laws

1314. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item which appeared in the 'Hindu' dated the 6th September, 2001 under the caption "Labour laws flouted with impunity";

(b) whether the workers are harassed with wide spread industrial sickness lockouts, closure and anti-labour policies pursued by the employers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action taken by Centre as well as States to check plight of the workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Industrial Dispute Act

1315. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently finalised the amendments to be carried out to the Industrial Dispute Act, and the Contract